

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the second full paragraph on page 70 beginning at line 19 with the following amended paragraph:

~~3-4~~3)-4) The obtained *N,N*-disubstituted sulfonamide compound is deprotected using a thiol reagent such as mercaptoacetic acid or thiophenol in the presence of a base such as cesium carbonate or potassium carbonate in an inert solvent such as *N,N*-dimethylformamide, acetonitrile or a mixed solvent thereof at usually room temperature to reflux temperature for usually 1 hour to 1 day to obtain the corresponding secondary amine compound, and the protective group is removed in the usual way as occasion demands.

Please replace the first full paragraph on page 72 beginning at line 6 with the following amended paragraph:

~~2-3~~2)-3) The obtained *N,N*-disubstituted sulfonamide compound is deprotected using a thiol reagent such as mercaptoacetic acid or thiophenol in the presence of a base such as cesium carbonate or potassium carbonate in an inert solvent such as *N,N*-dimethylformamide, acetonitrile or a mixed solvent thereof at usually room temperature to reflux temperature for usually 1 hour to 1 day to obtain the corresponding secondary amine compound, and the protective group is removed in the usual

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way as occasion demands to prepare a prazole derivative represented by the above general formula (IIe) of the present invention.

Please replace the second paragraph bridging pages 72 and 73 which begins at page 72, line 17 with the following amended paragraph:

1)-2) A pyrazole derivative represented by the above general formula (If) of the present invention can be prepared by subjecting a compound represented by the above general formula (IIe) to alkaline hydrolysis, and removing the protective group in the usual way as occasion demands. As the solvent used in the hydrolysis reaction, for example, methanol, ethanol, tetrahydrofuran, water, a mixed solvent thereof and the like can be illustrated. As the base, for example, sodium hydroxide, sodium methoxide, sodium ethoxide, methylamine, dimethylamine and the like can be illustrated. The reaction temperature is usually from 0°C to reflux temperature, and the reaction time is usually from 30 minutes to 1 day, varying based on a used starting material, solvent and reaction temperature. In case of compounds having a protective group in  $R^{12}$ ,  $R^{24}$  and/or  $Y^1$  after the hydrolysis, the protective group can be suitably removed in the usual way as the process 1-9.

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Please replace the second paragraph on page 73 which begins at page 73, line 7 with the following amended paragraph:

1)-2) A compound represented by the above general formula (IIIf) of the present invention can be prepared from a compound represented by the above general formula (IIe) by treating according to the following methods 1-6, and removing the protective group in the usual way as occasion demands.

<Method 1>

Please replace the paragraph bridging pages 75/76 which begins at page 75, line 19 with the following amended paragraph:

1)-2) A pyrazole derivative represented by the above general formula (Ig) of the present invention can be prepared by subjecting a compound represented by the above general formula (IIIf) to alkaline hydrolysis, and removing the protective group in the usual way as occasion demands. As the solvent used in the hydrolysis reaction, for example, methanol, ethanol, tetrahydrofuran, water, a mixed solvent thereof and the like can be illustrated. As the base, for example, sodium hydroxide, sodium methoxide, sodium ethoxide, methylamine, dimethylamine and the like can be illustrated. The reaction temperature is usually from 0°C to reflux temperature, and the reaction time is usually from 30 minutes to 1 day, varying based on a used starting material, solvent and reaction temperature. In case of

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compounds having a protective group in  $R^{12}$ ,  $R^{24}$ ,  $Y^1$  and/or  $Z^3$  after the hydrolysis, the protective group can be suitably removed in the usual way as the process 1-9.